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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Steel and Iron Production

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

DATE (OF INFO.)

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1. Production of raw steel in the Soviet Zone was only 32 thousand tons in 1952. The only producer was the Maxhütte at Unterwellenborn, which manufactured raw steel from imported pig iron.

2. Imports of raw steel amounted to 360 thousand tons, including 205 thousand tons from the USSR.

3. Import quantities have been considerably increased in the schedules for the year 1953 and 1954. Only small quota changes are provided for the steel and iron works in the Soviet Zone, but production will be increased by the newly put in service Hüttenkombinat Ost at Fürstenberg-Oder. Exact figures for 1953 and 1954 cannot be determined until the quota of the Gosplan (Soviet planning office) is fixed.

4. It is sought to make up deficits in the raw steel production by mobilizing the so-called interior reserves, but there no longer is enough scrap available in the Soviet Zone. Only 65,320 tons of additional scrap could be collected, because the SAG plants do not make their scrap reserves available.

5. Production of raw steel in blooms in 1952 was 1,367,450 tons; imports, 120 thousand tons.

Production of rolled steel, 1,223,000 tons; imports, 720 thousand tons.

Production of Thomas steel (basic Bessemer) and foundry pig, 492 thousand tons; imports, 360 thousand tons.

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6. The production plan for 1955 provides for the following quantities:

Thomas steel and foundry pig, 1,500,000 tons;

Raw steel in blooms, 3,500,000 tons;

Rolled steel, 2,200,000 tons.

To reach these quantities by the end of the five-year plan, additional investments amounting to 18 million marks are necessary. An endeavor is currently being made to put through increases in order to guarantee a frictionless taking over of the SAG plants under Soviet control. The results are not yet known.

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